(b) There is no proposal at present before the Government to bring about any change in the present system of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Cases pending in Punjab and Haryana High Court

1769. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court as on 1st January, 2008;

(b) the number out of them pending for more than ten years and those pending for less than ten years but more than five years and the date since when the oldest case in the court is pending; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite disposal of long pending cases particularly those pending for over ten years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per the latest available information, there are 2,55,696 cases pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court as on 30th September, 2007.

(b) As reported by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, there were 2,65,072 cases pending as on 30.6.2007 out of which 68,114 cases were pending for more than 10 years and 66,473 cases for less than 10 years but more than 5 years. No information has been provided by the High Court about the oldest pending case.

(c) Government has taken several steps including deciding to increase the strength of Judges in the High Courts. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District and Subordinate Courts which includes upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the High Courts.

Alternative modes of disposal including meditation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended, *inter alia*, limiting the number of adjournments that can be given to a party. Classification and Grouping of cases involving common question of law is also done in the High Courts for speedy disposal of pending cases.

Registration of Marriages

1770. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented the Supreme Court's directive on compulsory registration of marriages in the country, issued on 25th October, 2007, giving a time-frame of three months;

(b) if so, whether the provisions of this directive has been extended to all the communities or being exercised by different States selectivity; and

(c) whether the personal laws of particular communities are at variance with this directive?